PROP. C. LAKSHMANNA: No, it was the difference in production.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The shortfall is 3 lakh tonnes. The short fall in demand would be about 5 lakh tonnes because of the general gap between production and demand in the country. I am tatting only of SAIL production. In SAIL, the gap in production of pig iron was 3 lakh tonnes. Therefore we decided two things: to import and lower the duty because merely allowing import would not do. Earlier the duty was 85 per cent. Nobody would accept the imported pig iron. That was why we de-'cided to'do two' things. We requested the Finance Ministry to reduce the duty. It reduced it to 35 per cent and two lakh tonnes were imported. Out of that two lakh tonnes. 1.35 lakh tonnes has already come The rest is in the pipeline and will be coming in these four months. Our idea is that as far as Vizag is concerned, 1 .9 lakh tonnes of pig iron is expected in this financial year. So all these measures we have taken. We have asked the SAIL also to improve its pig iron production. Thus, we hope that in the months to come the position of pig iron, which has suddenly become rather difficult, will ease.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: What about the percentage of foundries?

SHRI VASANT SATHE; I do not know the percentage. I will supply it to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 84.

Setting up of a TV Tower at Fazilka

*84. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2633 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1988 and state:

(a) whether pending installation of **a** high power TV transmitter, Government had decided to set up **a** Low Power TV transmitter at Fazilka;

(b) whether the Station Engineer, Doordarshan Kendra, Bhatinda, *vide* his **letter** No. **HPTV/BTI/2(9)88-E** dated the **15th November, 1988, had asked the** Administrator, Municipal Committee for renting out of a part of the Municipal Committee Building, alongwith the attached open ground for this purpose whereupon the Executive Officer of the Committee conveyed consent to make available the said site; if so, what further action has been taken in the matter and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor;

(c.i whether some peoples' organisations of the area have represented to Government against shifting of the site; if so, what has been the Government's response thereto; and

(d) by when the alternate Low Power TV transmitter is likely to be set up at Fazilka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT); (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Over and above the approved Seventh Plan schemes of Doordarshan, a new scheme for the establishment of some additional low power TV transmitters at certain selected places in the country has been formulated and submitted for the formal approval of the Government. The scheme *inter alia* includes the establishment of a low power TV transmitter at Fazilka. The proposed low power TV transmitter at Fazilka is expected to be installed and commissioed into service during 1989-90 if the aforesaid scheme is approved by the Government and adequate funds are made available for its implementation.

The-District Administration has agreed to make available a part of the Municipal Committee building for establishment of the proposed low power TV transmiter **at** Fazilka. Action to acquire the site can be taken after the scheme is approved. However[1], no representation appear^ to have been received against installation of the transmitter at the proposed site.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, my question seems to have been slightly misunderstood. I had asked whether there was any representation against the

move supposedly to shift the low power TV transmitter from Fazilka. The reply given is that there was no representation whatsoever against its installation. Anyway, I feel my purpose is served because there is some sort of an assurance that the low power TV transmitter at Fazilka would be set up. The necessity of having a low power transmitter in border areas is of paramount importance for the reason that this would counter the various types propaganda from the other side of the border. Sir, there is only one doubt that I entertin from the reply given to me by the honourable Minister. With all humility I must say that my question is tO the Government and not to Doordarshan. I would like to have an assurance from the Minister, from the Government, that approval would . be given and that the transmitter would be set up at the earliest

SHRi H.K.L. BHAGAT; Sir, I am glad the honourable Member said he thinks that perhaps we misunderstood his question. No. I categorically assure him that *v.* scheme has been prepared for having over 100 additional transmitters during the Seventh Plan period, and the plan is to install them between July and October. It shall be a boom in low power TV transmitters in the country as it was jn the earlier years, perhaps with one a day and, sometimes, even two a day. We are giving priority to Fazilka, particularly because Fazilka is a border area. I might assure the honourable Member that the scheme for a high power transmitter in Fazilka also stands. It is a strategic place, it is a border area. We wish to continue this, I am following it up. ... *(Interruptions)*... It is not possible for a Minister, unless he gets the Cabinet approval tr> the scheme, to say that he will do it. 1 may say that this matter is before the Cabinet and I am confident that the Cabinet wil clear it and Fazilka will get a transmitter.

Secondly, I wish to say that we are giving attention to all the border areas. We have three schemes, one is the border area scheme, th$_e$ other is strengthening of border area scheme, the third is the Ladakh scheme. The whole scheme costs abot Rs. 74 crores and at the end of the seventh Five Year Plan, the coverage in the country as a whole would be 83 per cent of the population. But in the border it should be about 86 per cent of the population we want to strengthen the Doordarshan broadcasts for the border areas. I again assure the honourable Member that Fazilka will have both a small and $_a$ big transmitter, small to begin with. When the big one comes, then we will remove the small one and keep the big one,

SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, while I appreciate the reply of the honourable Minister and thank him for that, I also must appreciate the endeavour of the Government to improve the content and quality of the TV programmes. Precisely for this purpose, a Programme Genera'ion Centre was proposed to be set up at Chandigarh. I would like to k.now from the honouable Minister as to what is the progress in that direction.

SHRl H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, there was a suggestion for a Programme Production Centre at Chandigarh. I shall have to find out the details and then I will inform the Member. With regard to programme production, he has raised the ques'ion in a general way. At present... *(Interruptions)*. . .

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Please speak a bit loudly.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT; At present we have 18 Programme Production Centres in the country. By the end of the Seventh Plan, with the completion of the schemes up to the Seventh Plan, we shall have 48 Programme production Centres in the country. We have already started one National Programme Production Centre... *(Interruptions)* . About Chandigarh I shall certainly inform..

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want you to speak a little louder.

. . . *(Interruptions)* . . .

SHRl H. K. L. BHAGAT: About Chandigarh I shall find out the latest position and inform. S$_0$ far J am not sure.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH; Sir, in view of the increasing demand for Ty viewing from all oyer the country, may I know from the Hon'ble linister as to by what time he will cover 90 per cent of the country's population by low power TV and high power TV transmitters?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: As I have said, when the Seventh Five-Year Plan schemes are completed, for about 83 per cent of the area of population, TV signals will be available. Obviously, when the phased Plan schemes come, more or less, the entire country should be covered, almost—I would say that. I would like to tell the honourable Member that I calculated from the point of view of Parliamentary constituencies. When all these[1] Seventh Five-Year Plan schemes are completed—in addition we have the scheme for border transmission and we are making arrangements for its implementation —except for five Parliamentary constituencies, all other Parliamentary constituencies would have TV signals in some quantity— partially or a little more. I would say, with due respect. Sir, that world experts have said that ours is the largest TV audience in the shortest possible time. That is they comment of appreciation given to those engineers and others who have planned and implemented expansion oi: the TV in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is oyer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*85. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYTE;
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether af a convention of Bharatiya Krishak Samaj held in February, 1989?, at Kekri '(Rajasthan) demands were made that (0 the Agriculture Price Commission should have an increased representation of farmers in it and that it may be headed by a farmer only, (ii> Prices of agriculture products be linked with the general price index; (iii) interest-free loans be extended to farmers in lieu of subsidies for purchase of inputs; (iv> Farmers be associated in the quality control measures to curb the supply of sub-standard inputs; and (v) Crop-insurance be replaced by a revolving fund raised by the farmers, the States and the Central Governments; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The demands actually raised in the Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj held in February, 1989 at Kekri (Rajasthan) and presented in a Memorandum are annexed. *(See* statement below).

The position on the issues raised in the question is as follows:—

(i) There are three non-official members representing farmers' interests on the Commission for Agricultural costs and Prices. An eminent economist heads the Commission.

(ji) While recommending a price policy for a commodity the Commission takes into account not only a cornprehensjye overview of the entire structure of the economy of a Particular commodity but also a number of important factors as in dicatjjd below:—

1. Cost of Production.
2. Changes in input price?
3. Input-Qutpuj, price parity.
4. Trends in market prices.
5. Demand and supply.
6. Inter-crop price parity.
7. Effect on indust- cost structure